Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Claims 8, 10 and 11 are currently pending.

I.   35 USC § 103 CLAIM REJECTION

Claims 8, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,596,712 to Tsuyama et al (the '712 patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,352 to Tatosian et al (the "352 patent).

Independent claims 8 and 11 respectively recite of a method and system "for diagnosing at least one potential or actual fault in a machine." The claimed method of claim 8 includes the step: "applying said data to a plurality of filters wherein each filter is user configured to recognize a specific error in said machine." And similarly, the claimed system of claim 11 includes: a "fault recognition module including a plurality of filters wherein each filter is user configured to recognize a specific error . . " Thus the present invention utilizes user configured filters, each configured to recognize a specific fault for diagnosing proper, or improper, operation of a machine.

With regards to the '712 patent, it discloses the use a fault tree for performing diagnosis and analysis of machine data. With regards to the present claimed invention, the Examiner admits the '712 patent does not "explicitly disclose applying said data to a plurality of filters wherein each filter is user configured to recognize a specific error in said machine." In an attempt to overcome this deficiency of the '712 patent, the Examiner cites and applies the '352 patent.

The '352 patent relates to an adjustable filter for a computing system that obviates the need for error signals to be recorded in Control and Status Registers (CSR). In operation, it is the filter control register 220 that detects when a error condition is present (see, col. 4, lines 59-64 of the '352 patent). The filter control register 220 utilizes "filter logic 300 [that] uses the exclusive NOR gates 302-316 to determine whether a memory error matches the user-selected specifications stored in the filter control register." (Col, 5, lines 48-52 of the '352 patent). Thus, the filter control register 220 of the '352 patent determines when an error condition is present. Therefore, it is clear the '352 patent neither teaches nor suggests "a plurality of filters wherein
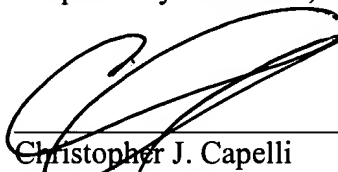
each filter is user configured to recognize a specific error in said machine." In other words, the '352 patent provides a master filter for determining error conditions while the claimed invention provides a plurality filters for doing so wherein each such filter may individually be "user configured to recognize a specific error in said machine." Thus, the '352 patent actually teaches away from the present invention in this respect and neither teaches nor suggests of the present invention as set forth in independent claims 8 and 11.

Accordingly, the '352 patent does not overcome the aforesaid deficiencies of the '712 patent in teach or suggesting the present claimed invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8 (along with its depending claim 10) and 11 patentably distinguish from either '712 or '352 patent, taken either alone or together, and that removal of this rejection is warranted.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application (namely, 8, 10 and 11) are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Capelli
Reg. No. 38,405
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3849

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000